(b) to (d) A survey for gauge conversion of Dhaulpur-Sirmuttrar with extension upto Gangapur City was completed in 1997-98. As per survey report, the cost of construction of 144 kms. long line was assessed at Rs. 170 crore with a rate of return as (-) 1.87%. Due to unremunerative nature of the project, it was not considered feasible to take up the work. An updating survey has been included in the Budget 2004-05. The survey is likely to be completed during 2005-06.

Special train for Chhatt Pooja

1187.SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not providing the special trains on the occasion of Chhatt Pooja in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the total number of such trains made available at Delhi/New Delhi and other important railway stations;

(c) the expected number of devotees who were disappointed as a result thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by Government to fulfil such assurance in future in favour of devotees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) To cater to the needs of the passengers especially those of Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, on the occasion of Chhatt pooja, Indian Railways operated 150 special trains. Of these 120 trains were operated from Delhi/New Delhi station for various destinations including Patna, Howrah, Darbhanga, Allahbad, Faizabad, Lucknow, Rai Bareily etc. Indian Railways run special trains during festivals (like Durga Puja, Chhatt, Diwali etc.) and other peak seasons to clear extra rush of passengers. This is an annual feature. No separate statistics is maintained for those passengers, both in reserved and unreserved segments, who could not secure accommodation in trains.

Angul-Sukinda Railway line

1188.SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which a paltry sum of Rs. 10 lakh has been allocated in the current year for the proposed railway line from Angul to Sukinda